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Dated: June 29 2005

Signature: Judy Calem  
(Judy Calem)

Docket No.: 251502006900  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Hendrik L. BIJL et al.

Application No.: 08/821,025

Confirmation No.: 3574

Filed: March 19, 1997

Art Unit: 1651

For: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF A  
GRANULAR MICROBIAL BIOMASS AND  
ISOLATION OF A COMPOUND  
THEREFROM

Examiner: I. Marx

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

### INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is in response to the final Office Action dated December 29, 2004, for which a response was due on March 29, 2005. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to June 29, 2005. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.